

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

Easter Sunday here was not favoured with as nice weather as one could wish, so that those both of the male and female persuasion, who mark the day most largely by the display they make of new spring styles of clothing, must have been greatly annoyed with the clerk of the weather bureau. Notwithstanding this, however, the Easter services at those churches which make a marked speciality of them were very largely attended. The published reports of them emphasize mainly, the decoration of the churches, special music and special sermons. In the Metropolitan Methodist, the preaching service we are told, was very brief, and the other part of the service consisted mainly of music by a choir of nearly a hundred voices, aided by the organ, two harps, a cello and four trumpets. At the free breakfast in the Yonge street Mission, two hundred and twenty eight were regaled with an abundant supply of appetizing food, and brief gospel addresses were made by Rev. Messrs. Crossley, Hunter and others. The inmates of the General Hospital were remembered and gladdened by a procession of Sunday school children from one of the Episcopal churches passing through the wards, leaving bouquets of flowers gathered by their own hands with the sufferers. This is a delightful way of remembering Easter. In most, if not all the Presbyterian churches, the day was noted by some special reference to it or Easter sermons.

The annual meeting was held during last week of the Ontario Library Association, which was presided over by Mr. James Bain, President, and Librarian of the Toronto Free Public Library. Not a few very interesting subjects, mostly however suited to those who are entrusted with the care of libraries, were discussed. Public Libraries are so multiplying in number and size, that it is felt some special instruction and training for the work of librarian is needed to turn the libraries to the best account. An interesting part of this Association's work, of general public importance, is that called "Reading Camp Libraries" for supplying remote districts and lumber camps with a supply of suitable reading matter, and for which the Legislature has voted \$1,200. This is a movement evidently in the right direction.

The Ontario Educational Association also, during last week held in the Normal School building, its forty-first annual meeting. The attendance was larger than at any previous meeting, and the interest taken in all the proceedings by those attending was very real, active and practical. The Association is now very thoroughly organized so as to include every department of educational work, and its supervision and improvement from the Minister of Education down to the humblest trustee of the humblest rural school section. The sessions during the day were for educationalists, but the evenings were devoted to lectures, or the consideration of subjects of general interest. The subject of the introduction of the Scriptures into the public schools in some form, was again discussed this year as it has been before. The result was, disapproval of their use in the public schools as a text book, but approval of the use of selections from them for the teaching of ethics, literature and history.

I should have mentioned above, referring to Easter, that it is the custom almost universally for Anglican churches to hold on the Monday after Easter their vestry meetings, corresponding with the annual congregational meeting in our Church, for the review of the work and financial standing of their churches. It is gratifying to be able to say that, at almost all these meetings held in the city, the reports for the year were very encouraging. In this state of things we can and do most cordially rejoice with our brethren in the Episcopal church. May the coming year be equally prosperous in all that concerns the real life and spirit of a Christian congregation.

On each alternate Monday the Ministerial Associations of the different bodies hold their meetings. At that of the Baptist ministers on the last Monday in March, "The Life and Work of George Muller of Bristol" was presented in a paper by one of its members. In that of the Methodist church, "Christianity and the Labor Problem" was the chief subject discussed; and in the Presbyterian Association, the subject of Foreign Missions was dealt with in an address by Rev. Dr. R. P. Mackay, and was followed up by remarks from several ministers present.

In this connection it may be noticed that, the Presbytery of Honan, China, is asking for four additional labourers to be sent out to assist in carrying on its work, and that it is proposed to open up two new stations. Fifty-four missionaries it is also noted, took part in a Conference at Shanghai, looking to a union of the Chinese churches, and for the establishment of a Theological College, which should serve all the different missionary boards and so greatly economize the working expenses of all in that department.

The public closing exercises of Knox College were preceded by the usual dinner of the graduating class on Wednesday evening, which was the most successful function of the kind yet held. About sixty guests were present and a large number of appropriate toasts was proposed and responded to. On Thursday evening the final exercises of the closing were held in St. James Square Church, at which there was a fair and representative attendance. Rev. Principal Caven presided, and with him on the platform, in addition to the faculty, were Rev. Principal Sheraton of Wycliffe College, and Prof. Farmer, of MacMaster University. Among other things referred to by Rev. Dr. Caven in a brief address, was the need and the proposal by the alumni, of a new building for the valuable library and museum of the College. The safety of the library and museum from fire makes these buildings very necessary, and it is much to be desired that the undertaking may be successful. The Rev. William D. Armstrong, M. A., Ph. D., of Ottawa and Rev. Alexander Stewart of Clinton, were presented by Sir Thomas W. Taylor and Rev. J. A. Turnbull, respectively, for the degree of D. D., and both gentlemen responded in brief addresses. Four alumni of the College received the degree of B. D., and a long list of winners of scholarships and prizes were read by Rev. Mr. Turnbull. The number of those completing their theological studies this year was exceptionally small, only ten; but the first and second year's classes are up to the average. Rev. Dr. Caven, for himself and the faculty, took farewell of the graduating class and presented them with their diplomas. The Rev. Alfred Gandier, pastor of St. James Square Church, counselled the class as to the work they were devoting their lives to in an address, admirable for its intellectual vigor, for its sympathetic appreciation and presentation of the work of the ministry, and for its Christian warmth and fervor. It may be added that, Dr. Caven mentioned the founding of a scholarship of \$6,000 in connection with the College by Mr. Mortimer Clark and Mrs. Clark and their family, in memory of their only son, and brother, a most promising young man, whose premature death a short time ago evoked very general and heartfelt sympathy.

The Dominion Prohibition Alliance is out with its manifesto already referred to in a former letter, in view of the referendum to be taken on prohibition. In it the Alliance especially urges the polling of the largest vote possible, and asking a pledge from every candidate for the Legislature that he will support prohibition if it is carried by the vote of the people.

The Rev. Dr. Parsons, who appears to have recovered much of his old vigor, delivered last Thursday, the first of a series of six addresses to be continued weekly until they close on "The Fulfillment of Prophecy in Relation to the present Movement among the Jews."

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. Dr. W. J. Taylor, of Toronto, has been preaching at Woodville.

Rev. John A. Moir, LL.B., of Manotick, has been preaching at Woodville.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed in the Appleton church last Sabbath.

Dr. P. C. McGregor preached in the Clayton church on Sunday in the absence of the Rev. J. R. Conn.

Last Sunday, Rev. Dr. McTavish, of Deseronto, and Rev. Jos. Gandier, of Newburg, exchanged pulpits.

The death is announced at Carnduff, Man., of Rev. George Bremner, formerly of White Lake, at the age of 85.

Rev. Mr. Potter, the Sailor's Missionary, conducted the service in St. Mark's church, Wales, on Sunday afternoon last.

Principal Grant is home from Toronto, where he had been for some time, and his many friends will be glad to know that he is feeling quite strong again.

Dr. J. J. Danby, a son of the manse, was ordained and inducted into the Eldership of St. Andrew's church, Richmond, at the morning service on Easter Sunday.

Mr. Harry Robertson, of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, paid his parents a visit while passing through Almonte en route for a new station in Ontario, where he will take charge of a mission station.

Miss McNaughton and her little niece, Miss Margery Ross, daughter of Rev. Dr. Ross of Montreal, were the guests of Rev. A. Graham and Mrs. Graham at the manse, Lancaster, over the Easter tide.

Mr. F. A. Robinson, who is to take charge of the services of Old St. Andrew's congregation, Lanark, the coming summer, preached in the town hall last Sabbath. He will take charge about the end of April.

Two beautiful electroliers of 31 lights each has just been placed in St. Paul's church, Smith's Falls. The lamps are most artistically arranged and when lighted there is a mellow and perfect illumination throughout the whole auditorium.

Rev. D. Mackenzie, Kirk Hill, has the sympathy of many friends on the recent death of his father who passed away in the 86th year of his age. He was a native of Lochcarron, Ross-shire, Scotland; but had long been a resident of Cape Breton, N. S.

Rev. P. P. Boyd has made a calculation of the strength of Presbyterianism in Almonte, which shows that there are 637 church members, divided among the three churches as follows: St. John's, 338; St. Andrew's, 301; Cameronian, 58. The number of Presbyterians within the town is placed at close on 1,100.

Mr. Arthur W. Lochhead, B. A., son of Rev. Mr. Lochhead, of North Gower, has won the Peter Rodpath scholarship at the Presbyterian college, Montreal. Mr. Lochhead is an earnest student, and is to be congratulated on his successes. He is sure to win more honours in the future.

The induction of Rev. Robert Harkness to the pastorate of Knox church, Cornwall, took place in the church on Tuesday evening. Rev. Alex. McGregor, of Woodlands, preached; Rev. J. S. Burnet, of Summerstown, addressed the minister; and Rev. K. McDonald, of Williamstown, spoke to the congregation. A reception to the new pastor will take place on Friday evening.

Rev. Duncan McEachern, who has held several important pastorates in the East, has been unanimously elected to St. Paul's church, Sault Ste. Marie. This is a new charge which has grown in a few months, owing to the rapid development of the town, into a self-sustaining charge able to offer \$1,000 a year to a minister. The choice of the congregation is an excellent one.

The Gazette says: "Rev. Orr Bennett occupied the pulpit of St. Andrew's church, Almonte, on Sunday morning for the first time as pastor of the congregation, and notwithstanding the strain upon one of his temperaments, as he realized the solemnity and importance of the occasion, he acquitted himself in a manner that won for him golden opinions; and remarks heard at the close of the service augur well for the success of his pastorate."

Rev. Mr. Conn, of Blakeney, in the course of a recent sermon alluded to the influx of one thousand Mormons from the United States into Alberta. In the admission of this class of immigration into the Northwest, Canada, he said, face to face with a great danger, Canadian citizenship was threatened, for it was well known that these people persistently endeavored to enforce their beliefs upon every community in which they settled. Mormonism should, he said, be checked and stamped out in Canada in its very infancy, and the present was the time for the government to act.

The meeting of the Westboro C. E. Society was an unusually interesting one, being devoted to Home Missions, and was conducted by the pastor, Rev. A. S. Ross. Mr. W. Ferrin read a paper of introduction, and Mr. Lowrie Coffin one on mission work. Mr. F. Rogers took as his subject one of the great works of Dr. Robertson. Miss M. Hill answered in her paper the question "Why should home and foreign missions be on an equality?" Rev. A. S. Ross, took as his subject, "Some of the Hardships the Home Missionaries Have to Face." Mr. F. A. Coffin spoke on the subject, "How Home Missions Help our Country." Mrs. Stewart and Miss Hill gave vocal solos.